

**Claims:**

1. A tunable drum comprising  
a hollow drum shell,  
drumheads closing the ends of said drum shell,  
an opening through said drum shell for acoustic venting, and  
means for adjusting the size of said opening to vary the amount of  
acoustic venting.

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2. A drum according to claim 1 in which  
the variation in acoustic venting varies the volume, pitch, tone, timbre  
and stick response of said drum.

3. A drum according to claim 1, in which  
said size adjusting means comprises a slide valve movable between an  
open and a closed position.

4. A drum according to claim 1, in which  
said drum shell has a plurality of venting openings, and  
said size adjusting means comprises a plurality of slide valves movable  
between an open and a closed position.

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**5. A drum according to claim 1, in which**  
**said drum shell has a plurality of venting openings**  
**said size adjusting means comprises a plurality of valves movable be-**  
**tween an open and a closed position, and**  
**means for moving said valves together.**

**6. A drum according to claim 5, in which**  
**said valves are movable pivotally between an open and a closed posi-**  
**tion, and**  
**said size adjusting means comprises means for moving said valves pivo-**

**7. A drum according to claim 1, in which**  
**said drum has a plurality of venting openings**  
**said size adjusting means comprises a plurality of valve means movable**  
**between an open and a closed position relative to said openings, and**  
**means for moving said valve means between said open and closed posi-**  
**tions.**

**8. A drum according to claim 7, in which**  
**said drum has a plurality of venting openings**  
**said valve means comprises a ring member having openings corre-**  
**sponding to said drum venting openings,**

5           **said ring member being movable between an open and a closed position**  
**relative to said openings, and**  
**said size adjusting means comprises means for moving said ring mem-**  
**ber between said open and closed positions.**

**9. A drum according to claim 8, in which**

**said ring member is positioned for rotation inside said drum.**

**10. A drum according to claim 8, in which**  
**said ring member is imperforate and positioned for rotation and endwise**  
**sliding movement inside said drum to cover or uncover said venting openings.**

**11. A drum according to claim 8, in which**

**said ring member is positioned for rotation outside said drum.**

- 12. A drum according to claim 8, in which**
- said ring member is positioned for rotation inside said drum, and includ-**
- ing**
- an operating member secured on said ring member and extending out-**
- 5 side said drum, and**
- said operating member being effective to rotate said ring member to vary**
- the size of the drum openings.**
- 13. A drum according to claim 8, in which**
- said ring member is positioned for rotation outside said drum, and**
- including**
- an operating member secured on said ring member and extending out-**
- 5 side said drum, and**
- said operating member being effective to rotate said ring member to vary**
- the size of the drum openings.**
- 14. A drum according to claim 8, in which**
- said ring member is positioned for rotation inside said drum, and includ-**
- ing**
- an operating handle secured on said ring member and extending outside**
- 5 said drum, and**
- said operating handle being effective to rotate said ring member to vary**
- the size of the drum openings.**

**15. A drum according to claim 8, in which  
said ring member is positioned for rotation outside said drum, and in-  
cluding**

**an operating handle secured on said ring member outside said drum,**

**5 and**

**said operating handle being effective to rotate said ring member to vary  
the size of the drum openings.**

**16. A drum according to claim 8, in which**

**said ring member is positioned for rotation inside said drum, and includ-**

**ing**

**a bolt member secured on said ring member and extending outside said**

**5 drum, and**

**said bolt member being effective to rotate said ring member to vary the  
size of the drum openings and on turning to a tightened position to fix said ring  
member in position .**

**17. A drum according to claim 1, in which**

**said drum has a first plurality of coplanar venting openings around the periphery thereof and a second plurality of coplanar venting openings around the periphery thereof spaced from said first plurality of openings,**

**5       said size adjusting means comprises a plurality of valves movable between an open and a closed position, and  
means for moving said valves between an open and a closed position.**

**18. A drum according to claim 1, in which**

**said drum has a first plurality of venting openings around the periphery thereof and a second plurality of coplanar venting openings around the periphery thereof spaced from said first plurality of openings,**

**5       said size adjusting means comprises a first ring member having openings corresponding to said first plurality of drum venting openings, and a second ring member having openings corresponding to said second plurality of drum venting openings**

**10      said first and second ring members being movable between an open and a closed position relative to said drum venting openings, and  
an operating member secured to said first and said second ring members for moving them together to adjust the openings defined by said drum venting openings and said ring member openings between said open and closed positions.**

19. A drum according to claim 1, in which  
said drum has a tensioning ring for securing a drumhead under high  
tension on the drumshell,  
said tensioning ring having an upstanding rim portion,  
5 said drum has a first plurality of venting openings around the periphery  
the drumshell and a second plurality of coplanar venting openings around the  
periphery of said rim portion spaced from said first plurality of openings,  
said size adjusting means comprises a first ring member having open-  
ings corresponding to said first plurality of drum venting openings, and a sec-  
10 ond ring member having openings corresponding to said second plurality of  
drum venting openings,  
said first and second ring members being movable between an open and  
a closed position relative to said drum venting openings, and  
an operating handle secured to said first and said second ring members  
15 for moving for moving them together to adjust the openings defined by said  
drum venting openings and said ring member openings between said open and  
closed positions.
20. The combination with a drum having a plurality of venting openings  
in the drumshell, of  
a ring memb r of a size having a sliding fit in the drumshell for move-  
ment between an open and a clo ed position relative to said op nings.

- 21. A combination according to claim 20 in which,**
- the drum has a plurality of venting openings in the drumshell, and**
- said ring member has openings, is split at one place, and has com-**
- pressed spring means tending to expand the ring member to fit tightly inside**
- 5 said drum, and**
- said ring member is movable between an open and a closed position**
- relative to said openings.**
- 22. A combination according to claim 21 in which,**
- the drum has a plurality of venting openings in the drumshell, and**
- said ring member has openings corresponding to said drum venting**
- openings,**
- 5 said ring member is movable between an open and a closed position**
- relative to said openings.**
- 23. A combination according to claim 21 in which,**
- the drum has a plurality of venting openings in the drumshell, and**
- said ring member is imperforate, and movable endwise of the drumshell**
- between an open and a closed position across said openings.**

**24. A combination according to claim 21 in which,**  
**there are two ring members,**  
**means supporting said ring members in fixed spaced relation, and**  
**handles extending from said supporting means to a point outside said drum for**  
5 **moving said rings in the drum shell.**

**25. A combination according to claim 21 in which,**  
**there are two ring members,**  
**handle means supporting said ring members in fixed spaced relation,**  
**and extending from said supporting means to a point outside said drum for**  
5 **moving said rings simultaneously in the drum shell.**

**26. The combination with a drum, of**  
**a tensioning ring fitted on the end of the drumshell to tension a drum-**  
**head thereon,**  
**said tensioning ring having a plurality of venting openings therein, and**  
5 **a ring member of a size having a sliding fit on said tensioning ring for**  
**movement between an open and a closed position relative to said openings.**

**27. A combination according to claim 26 in which,**  
**said ring member is of a size having a sliding fit inside said tensioning**  
**ring.**

**28. A combination according to claim 26 in which,  
said ring member is of a size having a sliding fit on the outside of said  
tensioning ring.**